

Staff Concerns – March 2016

CONCERN: Why does the President's Leadership Council not have minutes posted from any recent meetings? On the portal, the most recent minutes that have been posted are from 2014.

RESPONSE: Sharon Reynolds, Assistant to the President stated that the President's Leadership Council portal page can be found here:
<https://my.moreheadstate.edu/CampusFeedback/plc/Pages/default.aspx>.
Here you will find meeting agendas since October 8, 2014, with the materials and presentations discussed during these meetings. Additional minutes would merely repeat what is in these materials and presentations, so they are not prepared since this information is readily available. I hope this clears up any concerns. Thank you!

CONCERN: Suggest that all Staff Congress members check to make sure they are reaching their constituency - there are more of us not receiving the newsletter since the last election.

RESPONSE: Secretary Purnell sent a message to all Representatives about sending out the newsletters to constituents. After the election with the new areas, this will be a much easier process to disseminate the newsletters to staff. Newsletters can also be found on the portal site.

CONCERN: This is in response to the concern in the newsletter about the positions in Rick Linio's area. I am almost certain that these were new positions. You can verify by looking at the previous roster and the current one. There were a couple that were reworked from the current, but there were also a few that were created new.

RESPONSE: HR Director Harold Nally said that the positions had previously existed. Facilities revised the job descriptions when the positions became open to meet their department needs and service the campus community. The Personnel Administrator position is the former facilities administrative specialist position; the accountant position is the former purchasing specialist position, the architect positions was the former engineering superintendent position. The Marketing and Communication manager was an existing part-time position and was funded by two Building Services positions.

CONCERN: Since employees are being furloughed, there shouldn't be any stipends, re-classes, new hires, (full-time or part time) coming through, correct? If we are looking for money savings, I don't think that these should be getting approved. Is there someone that will be monitoring these areas??

RESPONSE: HR Director Harold Nally said that yes, these actions are securitized and will be judged in the framework of what is deemed essential.

CONCERN: How much did the Rendezvous system cost? Why did we not purchase the module to include attendees? At this point meeting invitations will still have to be scheduled via Outlook and still schedule the room in Rendezvous. This creates double work.

RESPONSE: Tauyna Jones, Special Events Planning Manager, stated the cost for the Rendezvous Scheduling System is \$2,025 per month or \$24,300 per year. After the training session on Tuesday, March 30th the issue with sending invitations through Outlook has been resolved. If you need further training please contact Taunya Jones, Special Events Planning Manager of Conference & Event Services at 606-783-2099, or ta.jones@moreheadstate.edu.

CONCERN: How much did it cost for the new clocks that could be set automatically? The time changed on March 13, but the clocks were never set for the new time. These clocks currently are not working.

RESPONSE: Gardner May, Director of Maintenance Services stated - Good Afternoon Everyone! The new "MSU clocks" are experiencing an IT technical issue rather than an actual maintenance issue. These clocks are programmed to access the Wi-Fi system at 2am and then again at 2pm to automatically update the time. Therefore, making any adjustments needed, if any. The clocks tried to on March 13, (Daylight Savings Time Change), to access the Wi-Fi system but could not access it. Zoltan Ori has found that any facility that has transitioned over to the newly installed upgraded system experienced a "firewall & IP address glitch". Therefore, the new "MSU clocks could not automatically reset due to this issue.

However, those facilities still on the "old system" with the new MSU clocks did go ahead and change to the daylight savings time on March 13 without any problems. Zoltan Ori is diligently working with the contractors that are upgrading the system across campus to resolve this issue with the firewall and IP addresses for those facilities that the clocks did not reset. Zoltan has ask that everyone to be patient while our campus system is being upgraded. Please remember that during this system upgrade, you may experience some glitches from time to time

and these glitches do take time to resolve. Please call or email Zoltan, he will be able to answer any IT questions concerning these clocks; and the time line for making the necessary adjustments to the system. Thank you, Gardner

CONCERN: With all the budget cuts and furloughs that are taking place here on campus, I would like an explanation of why there are hundreds of yellow "Walk It Out MSU" signs posted across campus. During this budget crisis it makes no sense to spend money on signs that advertise one event and then will be thrown away. Once again this is just a classic example of the wasteful spending that takes place across campus. I would like to know where the funds come from for these signs and why this budget hasn't been reduced.

RESPONSE: Harold Nally, HR Director stated - We recognize the fact the need to frugal with resources, especially during the budget challenges the university currently faces. The planning for "The Walk It Out MSU" and the signs were ordered and paid for before the budget cuts were announced. It is HR's intent to make this annual event. We will collect these signs after this year's event and reuse them for next year. We can remove the date at the bottom of the sign.

CONCERN: All staff were issued employment contract letters specifying the amount of our wages to be paid for this fiscal year. How much weight do our employment contract letters have in light of the furlough?

RESPONSE: Harold Nally, HR Director stated - All staff are at will employees. The letter employees receive is information concerning the salary that is to be allotted to that position. These terms and conditions may change during that year.

CONCERN: It has come to my attention that MSU is shelling out \$50,000 in order to host the basketball team's CBI game. Does the university expect to recoup this money from ticket sales? From sponsors? Will the game(s) be televised? If the answer to the above is no, then I would ask our leaders why they feel spending \$50,000 in this budget crisis is a smart move. I would ask them how they think it makes the university look to our constituents, both alumnus and our officials in Frankfort. I would also ask them how they think this will be perceived by faculty and staff - particularly staff who make minimum wage and are facing extreme hardships due to the upcoming furloughs. I would ask them to put themselves in the place of the most vulnerable of our community. Thank you for receiving my concern.

RESPONSE: Brian Hutchinson, Director of Athletics stated that the cost to host a first or second round game in the CBI is \$40,000. We will pay this money out of future revenues earned by playing in another event sponsored by the tournament

organizers. While there are residual costs associated with hosting home athletic events (paying event staff, workstudy wages, catering, etc.) and in playing away (spending more in food than the tournament per diem for example), we are built to assume them with no issues. We are not spending money we haven't earned through direct basketball revenues and would not earn if we did not play in this event. We are fortunate that our basketball team is still playing in the post season and developing themselves for next season while trying to win the tournament this season. This is about their development and that of the team. There is a good bit of national attention on this tournament and already advancing into the quarterfinals has been a good thing for our program.

Additional Response from Rep. Richard Fletcher:

The \$40,000 was made back in ticket sales and ESPNU pays those who appear on ESPNU for every telecast, so MSU will receive money for playing on ESPNU. On championship night, there were 45,000 twitter comments about MSU. Chair Dennis also stated if you were watching the broadcast, the town of Morehead was mentioned, along with our Space Science program and other facts about MSU.